30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
MARVEL COMICS
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1 JUNE
THE ∞ INFINITY WAR
FIRST STRIKE!

AND WHEN YOU LOOK INTO THE ABYSS, THE ABYSS ALSO LOOKS INTO YOU.

--NIETZSCHE

ON A NAMELESS PLANET IN THE BACKWATER REGIONS OF OUR GALAXY.

CLIFFHANGER

MANEUVERS

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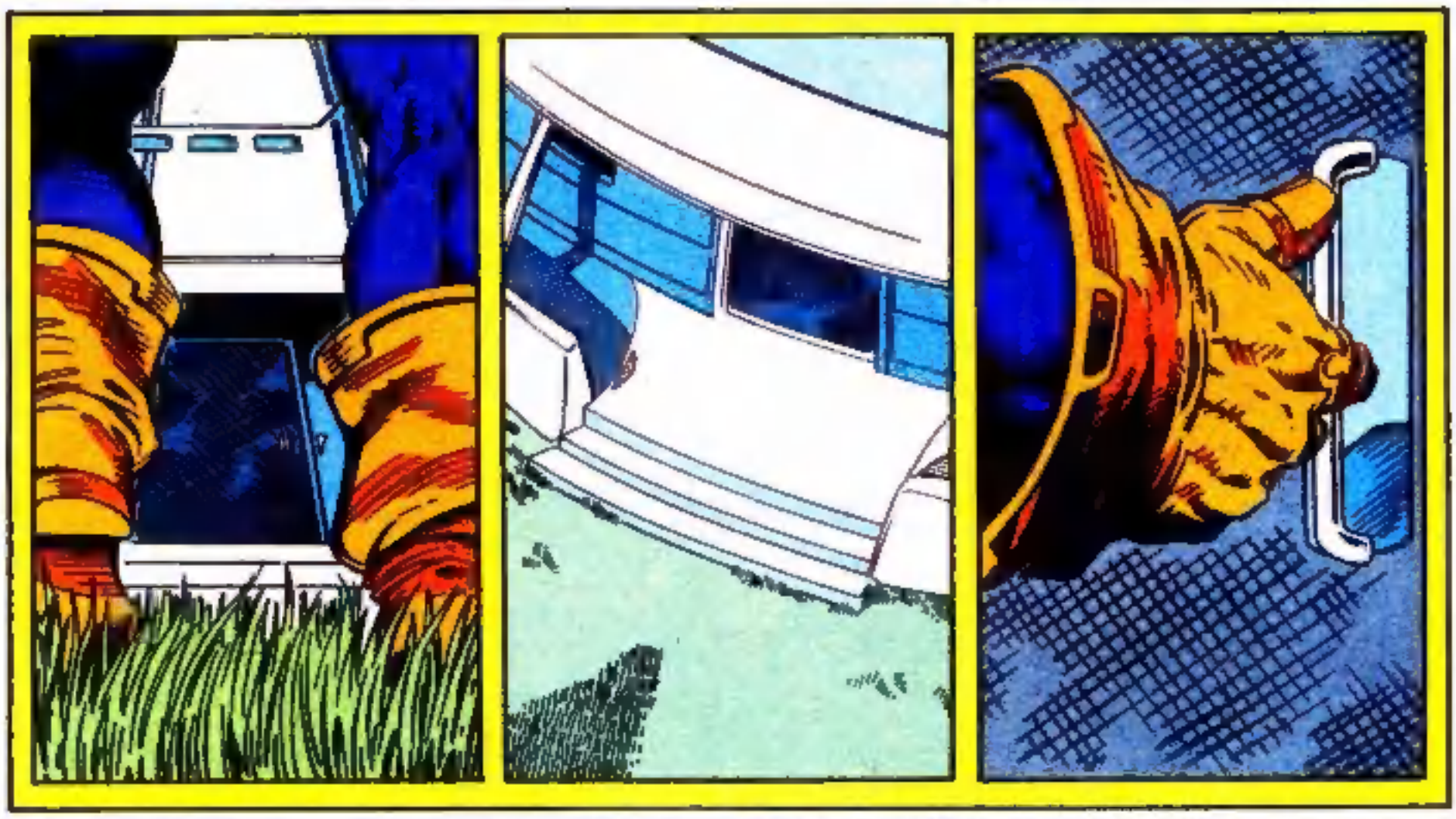


Master, the telemetry is collated and ready.

I think you will want to immediately review these latest readings.

AN OVERVIEW SYNOPSIS, PLEASE.

Yes, sir.

Unexplainable exotic patterns along the entire spectrum.

HAS THEIR POINT OF ORIGIN BEEN DETERMINED?

Affirmative.

Probe approaching transmission portal.

INTER-DIMEN-SIONAL?

Affirmative.

Vortex activity. Severe photon upheaval.

Probe's survival probability minimum.

NOT A CONSIDERATION. ALL THAT MATTERS IS THE *DATA*.

TRANSMIT.

Proceeding.

MORE *PRECISE READINGS* THAN I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED.

Thank you. Those are incredible forces at play.

I HAVE *NEVER* SEEN *SCANNINGS* LIKE THESE.

I BEGIN TO SENSE A *PATTERN*...

Any conclusions?

ONLY ONE.

THE ENTIRE *UNIVERSE* STANDS IN *GRAVE PERIL*.

I take it that on-sight research is required?

SOMETIMES THAT IS THE *ONLY WAY* TO OBTAIN A *TRUST-WORTHY EVALU-ATION* OF A SITUATION.

I will immediately begin construction of an appropriate vessel.

NOT NECESSARY.

I ALREADY HAVE *TRANSPORTATION* ARRANGED.

Your records show this craft destroyed some time back, sir.

A RECON-STRUCTION.

Did not the original vehicle have mystical qualities?

YES, THAT THIS FLYER *LACKS*.

BUT ONCE THANOS *FAMILIARIZES* HIMSELF WITH A *TECHNOLOGY*, VERY LITTLE IS *LOST*.

THIS CRAFT SHOULD SERVE ME *WELL* ENOUGH.

Is it possible for you to determine a possible ETA for your return, sir?

WILL AND NOT WHEN IS A MORE APPROPRIATE QUESTION TO BE CONCERNED WITH AT THE MOMENT.

I see.

EVEN DURING THE PAINFULLY STILL HOURS, INSOMNIA REIGNS SUPREME IN THE BIG APPLE...

AND AS USUAL, SPIDER-MAN, THE POSTER CHILD FOR THAT CONDITION, WHILES AWAY THE NIGHT DEFYING THE CERTAIN LAWS OF GRAVITY.

SKIPPING ALONG THE RAZOR'S EDGE.

JUST ANOTHER NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN.

AROUND EVERY CORNER, A SURPRISE.

JADED EYES FOREVER SEARCHING OUT STIMULI.

A DARK SECRET FOR EVERY SOUL.

ALWAYS UNIQUE; THAT'S WHAT THIS [redacted] IS.

IT'S AN ORIGINAL.

NOTHING LIKE IT ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

POWERFUL ETERNITY CATATONIC.

IMPOSSIBLE, BUT TRUE.

ARTIFICIALLY INDUCED BY AN OUTSIDE FORCE SO COMPLEX THAT EVEN MY INSTRUMENTALITY CANNOT PROPERLY DECIPHER ITS WEAVE.

BUT GALACTUS! THIS IS ETERNITY YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF ALL THERE IS IN THIS UNIVERSE!

WHO COULD POSSIBLY SLIP HIM A MICKEY FINN?

THAT, NOVA! IS PRECISELY WHAT I INTEND TO FIND OUT.

SUCH POWER CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO RUN UN-CHECKED...

...OR UNCHALLENGED.

THE DANGER IS FAR GREATER THAN I SUSPECTED.

A STRONG SECONDARY EMANATION LED ME TO THIS CHILLING TABLEAU, YET THE PATTERN REMAINS UNFOCUSED.

THE IDENTITY OF ITS ARCHITECT REMAINS AN ENIGMA.

EVEN MORE VEXING IS THE FACT THAT I FIND THIS ENERGY SIGNATURE STRANGELY FAMILIAR.

BUT NOT FAMILIAR ENOUGH TO ELICIT AN EXACT MEMORY.

STILL, I'VE NO REASON TO COMPLAIN...

THE TRAIL IS CLEAR AND I WILL EASILY...

HUH?

THE ABYSS...

THE SETTING SUN CATCHES A GLINT OF METAL ON THE HORIZON.

A WEEKEND IN VEGAS WAS TONY STARK'S INDULGENCE, BUT IT IS IRON MAN WHO SOARS ABOVE THE DEVIL'S PLAYGROUND, HEADING HOME.

A JOURNEY DESTINED TO END BADLY.

RADAR ALERT.

WHO?

"MANY OF THE SAME LAWS OF NATURE APPLY HERE THAT DO IN MY OWN DIMENSION.

"BUT AS FAMILIAR AND COMFORTING AS IT MAY SEEM, I CANNOT ALLOW MYSELF TO FORGET HOW FAR DOWN THE DIMENSIONAL CHUTE I CURRENTLY AM.

"THIS [redacted] MOST DEFINITELY ENEMY TERRITORY.

"AN AMAZING CONSTRUCT.

"READINGS SHOW SIMULATED GRAVITY AND A LOOSELY CONTAINED ATMOSPHERE.

"MUCH ENERGY AND EGO WENT INTO THE CREATION OF THIS ASTRAL HAVEN.

"IT REMINDS ME OF MY SHRINE TO MISTRESS DEATH.

"I LIKE IT.

"NO SENTRY CHALLENGES MY ENTRY, ALMOST AS IF THIS WERE ■■ ABANDONED OUTPOST.

"BUT MY INSTRUMENTATION UNDERSCORES THE FUTILE FOOLISHNESS OF THAT NOTION.

"THE SOURCE OF THESE UNBELIEVABLE READINGS IS WITHIN A STRUCTURE PACKED TO THE RAFTERS WITH WONDROUS TOYS.

"SO ADVANCED IS THE TECHNOLOGY THAT I CAN ONLY GUESS AT HALF OF THE DEVICES' FUNCTIONS.

"THE ENERGIES AT ■ORK ARE BENUMBING, ON A LEVEL FEW BEINGS COULD EVEN DREAM OF, LET ALONE CONTROL.

"BUT REALIZING THAT THIS CONTROL IS ACHIEVED BY MECHANICAL MEANS IS EVEN MORE MIND-BOGGLING.

"IT IS MUCH LIKE TAKING A DINOSAUR OUT FOR A WALK ON A LEASH.

"I AM TALKING ABOUT POWER READINGS JUST SHORT OF THE LEVELS OF THE INFINITY GAUNTLET'S.

"END LOG ENTRY."

SOMETIMES HIS BETTER HALF NEEDS REVITALIZING AND PURGING.

THAT'S WHEN THE WILD RECLAIMS HIM.

THE MAN RECEDES, AND THE WOLVERINE REIGNS.

HIS EVERY SENSE EVER ON THE ALERT FOR DANGER.

EVEN A DANGER NEARLY AS FAMILIAR AS HIS OWN REFLECTION.

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE: THE EMANATIONS' POINT OF ORIGIN IS LOCATED IN THE LOZENGE-SHAPED MODULE ON THE CENTER'S CEILING.

DEPARTING CRAFT TO BETTER INVESTIGATE.

WILL NOW EXAMINE AND IDENTIFY ENERGY SOURCE.

HOPE YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON TAKING BACK ANY SAMPLES WITH YOU, THANOS.

WHO?

YOU?

"I HAVE NEVER SEEN SCANNINGS LIKE THESE.

I TRULY DOUBT ANYONE EVER HAS."

ENERGIES ON THIS LEVEL ARE USUALLY CONTROLLED BY A COSMIC ENTITY.

BUT DOCTOR DOOM SENSES NO SUCH PLAYER IN-VOLVED IN THIS AFFAIR.

MANY WOULD FIND SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES FRIGHTENING.

BUT MY EYES GAZE WITH AN ALTERED PERSPECTIVE.

I SEE BUT OPPORTUNITY.

MY VISIONS ARE OF DARK DREAMS RIPENING, WAITING TO BE HARVESTED.

WHERE THERE IS POWER, THERE IS POWER TO BE GAINED.

BUT THIS QUEST WILL REQUIRE TECHNOLOGY BEYOND THE SCOPE DIRECTLY AVAILABLE TO ME.

FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA, HOME OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

ONCE AGAIN, NIGHT FINDS REED RICHARDS BUSY IN HIS LAB, IN SEARCH OF ANSWERS, UNRAVELING SCIENTIFIC GORDIAN KNOTS.

I TAKE IT, THANOS, THAT YOU DIDN'T EXPECT TO EVER ENCOUNTER ME AGAIN.

OR COME FACE TO FACE WITH YOUR COMPANION EITHER.

THE MAGUS HAS ALWAYS TRAVELED IN MOST UNUSUAL CIRCLES.

I THOUGHT THOSE JOURNEYS HAD BEEN RESTRICTED TO WITHIN ADAM WARLOCK'S PERSONALITY IN RECENT YEARS.

AN OBVIOUS MISCONCEPTION ON YOUR PART, TITAN.

THE DOPPEL-GANGER?

A MERE SHADOW OF WHAT IS TO COME.

I WAS WITH WARLOCK WHEN YOUR TIME LINE WAS DESTROYED.

THERE ARE MANY PATHS LEADING TO GRANDEUR.

THAT SENTIMENT HAS A FALSE RING TO IT.

DOUBT?

DID NOT MISTRESS DEATH ONCE CLAIM YOU?

AND SADLY REJECTED ME.

PERHAPS DIVINE GUIDANCE ALSO HAD A HAND IN YOUR RESURRECTION.

NOW YOU ARE AN INSTRUMENT OF THE ALMIGHTY?

MOCK IF YOU WILL...

...BUT YOU WILL EVENTUALLY COME TO SEE THAT MY FLAME IS DESTINED TO BLAZE THROUGHOUT THE HEAVENS.

SOME MISTAKES ARE JUST TOO TEMPTING NOT TO REPEAT.

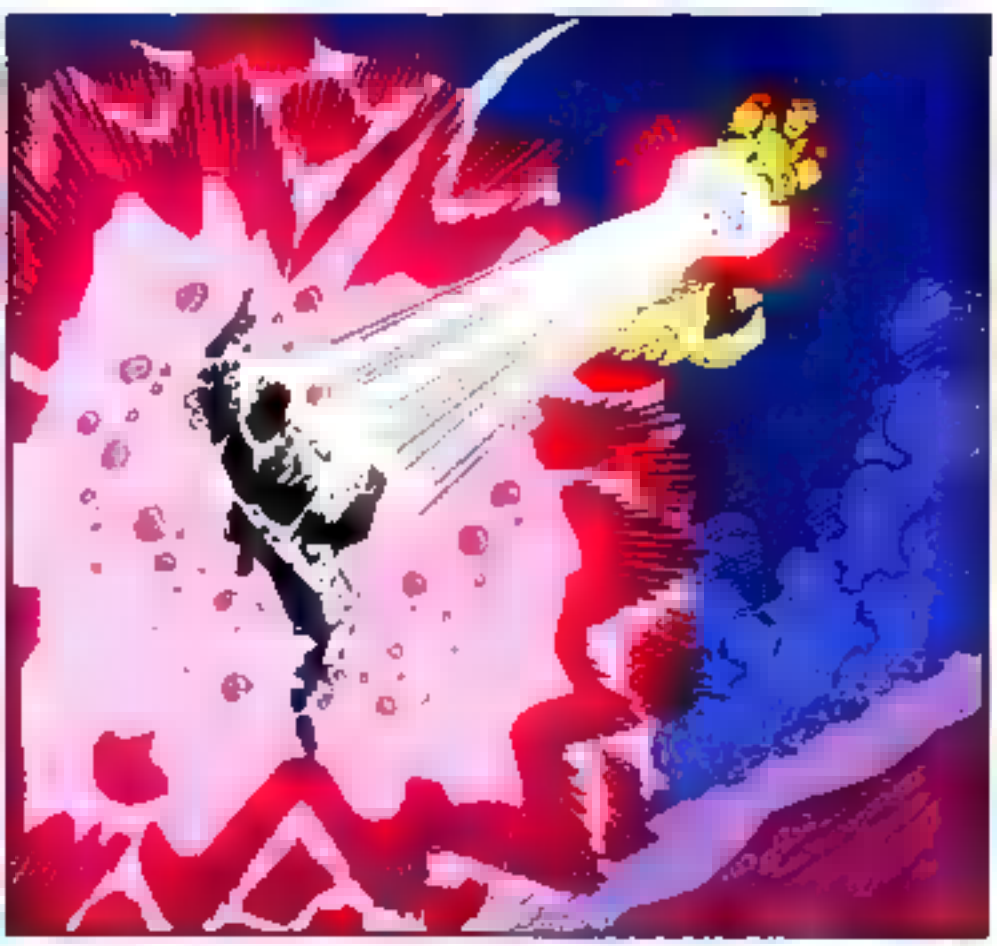
ME, A MISTAKE?

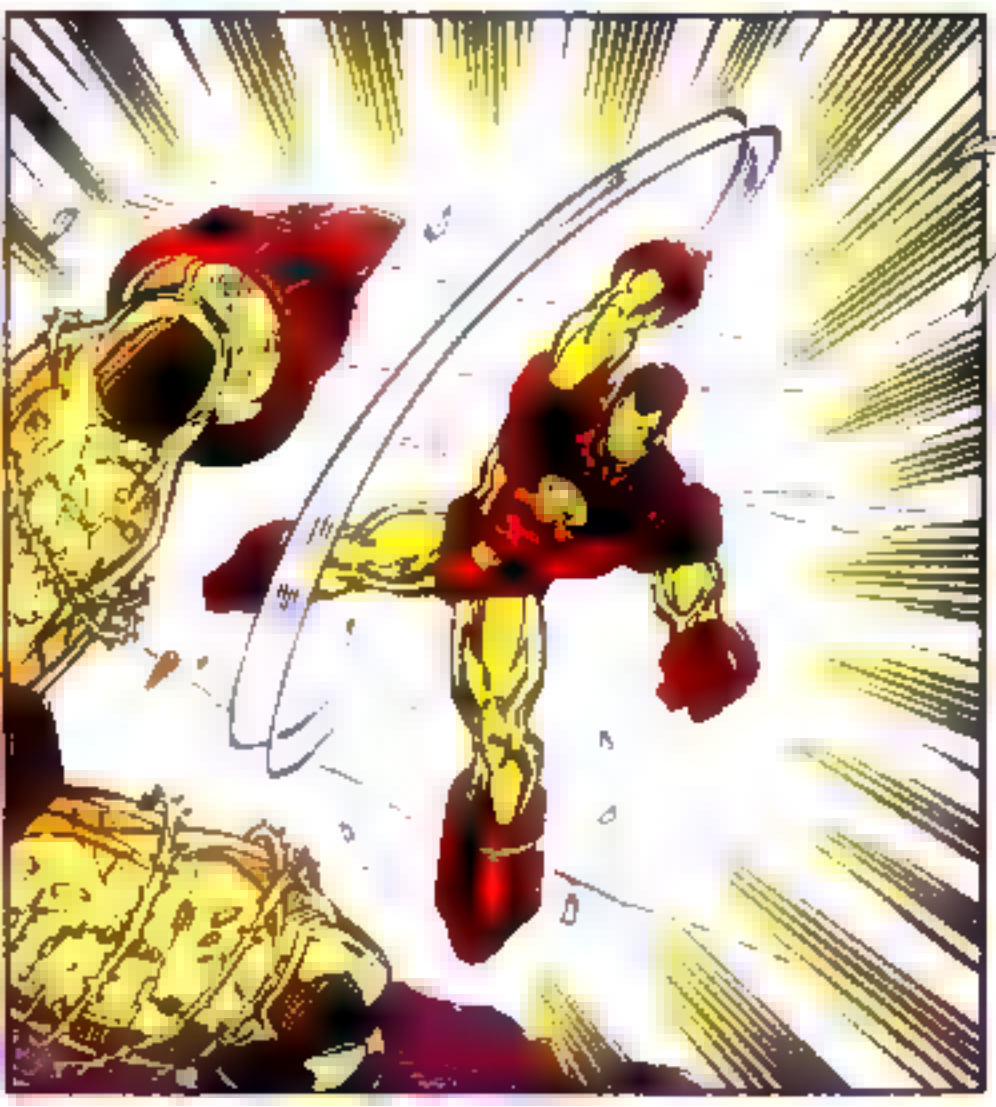
THEN PERHAPS ANOTHER SHADOW?

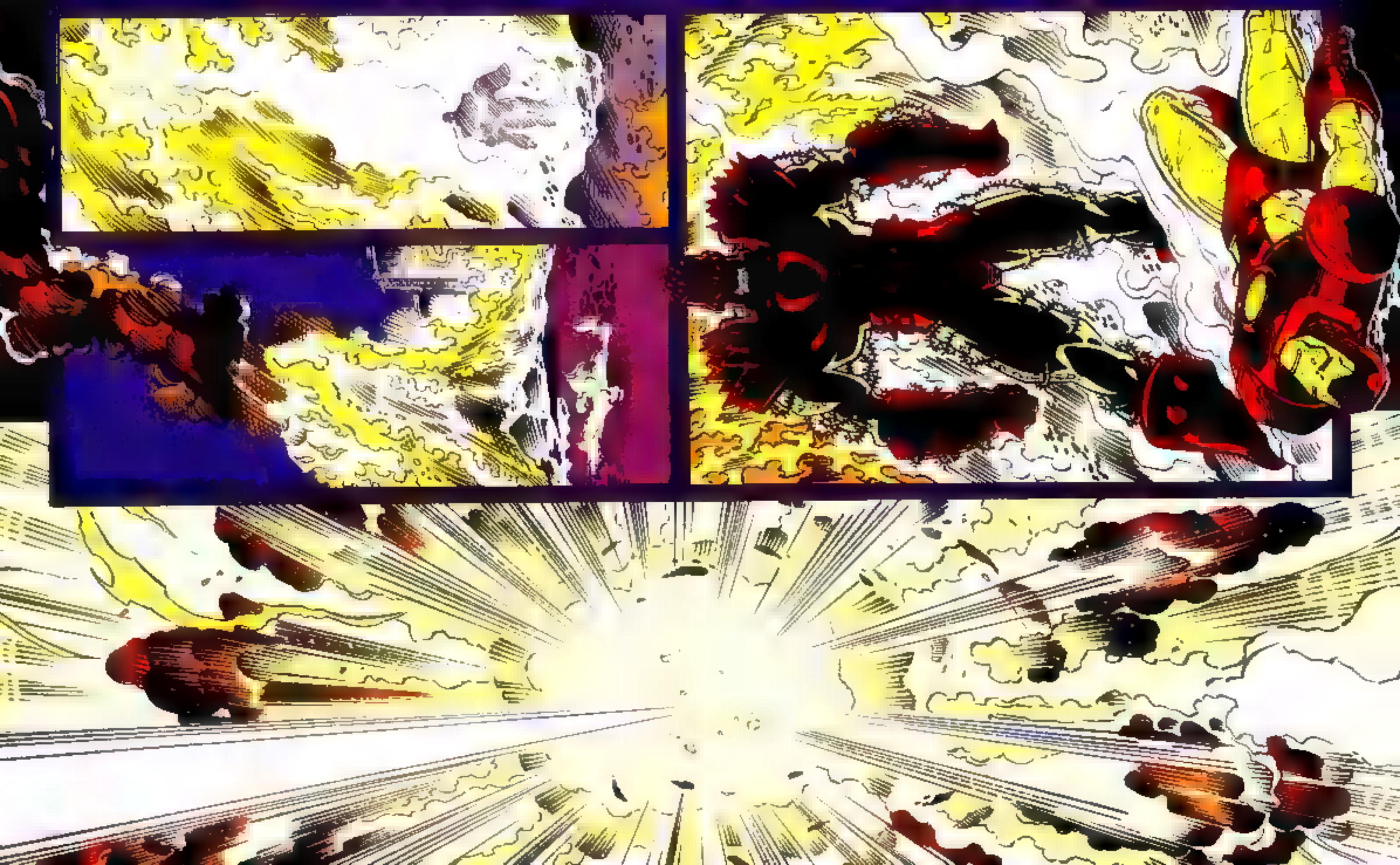
YOU TRY MY PATIENCE, TITAN.

BE WARNED, FANNING THE EMBERS OF MY WRATH COULD PROVE A TERRIBLE ERROR.

REMEMBER, SOME MISTAKES ARE FATAL.







IN A REALITY MANY STEPS REMOVED FROM OUR OWN...

MASTER, HAVE WE ALREADY REACHED THE SOURCE OF THOSE MYSTERIOUS ENERGIES?

NO.

THE TRAIL HAS SUDDENLY BEEN SCRAMBLED.

MY ON-BOARDS ARE STRUGGLING TO DECIPHER THE ALTERED ■IGNAL, BUT...

IT IS AS IF MY FOE SENSED MY APPROACH.

CAN THAT BE?

WITH POWER LIKE THIS, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

NOW, MORE THAN EVER, IT IS PARAMOUNT THAT I HUNT DOWN THE WIELDER OF THIS MIGHT.

HE TINKERS WITH MY REALITY--AN AFFRONT I CANNOT ALLOW.

BUT HOW WILL YOU...?

BY INDUCTING INTO MY SERVICE ONE WHO CAN EASILY PENETRATE THE MYSTICAL BARRIERS SET BEFOR■ ■E.

WHO?

I MAGE.

HOW TRULY PERPLEXING TO FIND ONE'S SELF SOCIALIZING WITH A MAN FROM A FUTURE THAT NO LONGER EXISTS.

MYRIAD POSSIBILITIES PRODUCE ENDLESS VARIATIONS ON TOMORROW.

SOME EVEN REPEAT THEMSELVES.

FOR SOME REASON I FIND THAT EXPLANATION RATHER UNSATISFYING.

YES, I HAVE HEARD THAT SATISFACTION HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PROBLEM WITH YOU.

YOU POSSESS GREAT POWER WITHIN THAT CONTAINMENT VESSEL.

DEFLECTING AN UNPALATABLE TRUTH WITH CURIOSITY?

THERE'S SOMETHING DISTURBINGLY FAMILIAR ABOUT THE TEXTURE OF THOSE ENERGIES.

I IMAGINE WHAT I PLAN TO DO WITH YONDER POWER IS ALSO OF GREAT INTEREST TO YOU.

IT IS WHAT BROUGHT ME TO THIS GOD-FORSAKEN CORNER OF THE PLANE.

IN THE HOPES OF ELUDING MY VENGEFUL WRATH..?

NO.

I MERELY WISH TO SAFEGUARD THE SANCTITY OF MY OWN REALITY.

YOU NOW PROTECT WHAT YOU ONCE SOUGHT TO DECIMATE?

WHAT DOES REALITY MEAN TO ONE SUCH AS YOU?

MUCH IN RECENT MONTHS.

THIS DOES NOT SOUND LIKE THE THANOS I KNEW OF OLD.

HE HAS BEEN REPLACED BY A CREATURE WITH DIFFERENT PRIORITIES.

A REVELATION?

OF SORTS.

AS YOU DO NOW. I ONCE STROVE FOR ULTIMATE POWER.

WHY DO YOU THINK THAT MY GOAL?

YOU ALREADY POSSESS VAST ENERGIES, YET I STILL SEE HUNGER IN YOUR EYES.

YOU SPEAK AS A KINDRED SOUL AND AN ANXIOUS COMPETITOR?

I'VE ALREADY HAD MY TASTE OF OMNIPOTENCE AND FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP DOWN.

ULTIMATE MIGHT WAS NOT MEANT FOR BEINGS SUCH AS OURSELVES.

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT I HAVE GROSSLY OVER-ESTIMATED YOU, TITAN.

YOU AND I ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT OF THE SAME BREED.

AND I APPARENTLY WASTE MY TIME TRYING TO REASON WITH YOU.

IT WOULD APPEAR SO.

YOU WILL LET ADAM KNOW I'M COMING, WON'T YOU?

HA HA HA HA HA HA

THE TITAN CAN'T HELP BUT ADMIRE THE [redacted] HE WAS HANDLED.

ON-BOARDS WIPED CLEAN AND HE DEPOSITED UN-CEREMONIOUSLY BACK INTO HIS OWN DIMENSION.

THE ENERGY SIGNATU[redacted] IS NOW SCRAMBLE[redacted] NO WAY TO TRACE IT DIRECTLY.

I DOUBT THE MAGUS FIGURES THAT WILL STOP ME THOUGH.

WHAT IS HIS GAME, AND HOW DO I FIT INTO IT?

ALL THAT POWER, AND HE STILL MANIPULATES IT MECHANICALLY.

WHY?

INSANE?

PERHAPS. ALL THE MORE REASON TO PUT A STOP TO HIS MISCHIEF.

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS LITTLE ENCOUNTER HAS MADE ONE THING EXCRUCIATINGLY APPARENT--

--THIS IS A STRUGGLE I AM GOING TO NEED HELP IN WINNING.

HIS TELE-PORTATION TELEMETRY WAS SET TO THE EXACT COORDINATES YOU PREDICTED, MASTER.

THE MESSAGE COMES IN ON A TIGHT, CODED BEAM

THE FIRST TO RECEIVE IT IN THEIR MID-TOWN HQ ARE...

...THE AVENGERS.

I HAVE SCHEDULED A MEETING FOR 6 A.M. TOMORROW MORNING.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ALL PARTIES ATTEND.

THEN THE X-MEN.

MY RESEARCH HAS UNCOVERED A DEADLY THREAT TO THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.

IT'S MORE THAN THE FANTASTIC FOUR CAN HANDLE ALONE.

THE NEW WARRIORS.

WE ARE NOW FORCED TO DEAL WITH A POWER THAT RIVALS THE BEYONDER'S OR THAT OF THE INFINITY GAUNTLET.

THE INFINITY WHAT?

THE WEST COAST AVENGERS.

IT'S GOING TO TAKE A CONCERTED EFFORT ON ALL OUR PARTS TO INSURE THIS UNIVERSE'S SURVIVAL OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

X-FACTOR.

CAN WE GET ANY PARTICULARS NOW...?

NOT OVER THE WIRE.

ALPHA FLIGHT.*

I'LL FILL IN THE BLANKS TOMORROW.

VERY WELL.

*THIS SEQUENCE TAKES PLACE DURING ISSUE #109 OF ALPHA FLIGHT.

BUT IN THE STUDY OF A GREENWICH VILLAGE BROWN-STONE...

...THE MYSTICAL CONTEMPLATIONS OF DOCTOR STRANGE ARE RUDELY INTERRUPTED...

WHAT?

IT DOESN'T MATTER. YOU MUST COME OVER.

SURELY THE DATA I HAVE FORWARDED IS SUFFICIENT INCENTIVE.

EVEN I DARE NOT UNDERTAKE SUCH AN ENDEAVOR ALONE.

YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TRUST IN THIS MATTER.

THERE IS GREAT RISK IN THE TWO OF US WORKING TOGETHER.

BUT THE PRIZE IS WELL WORTH ANY RISK.

I HAVE IDENTIFIED THE ENERGY SIGNATURE FROM MY FILES.

THERE ARE FIVE OF THEM.

FIVE!

SURELY YOU SEE THE SIGNIFI-CANCE!

WITH ONE, CONQUEST OF AN ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS POSSIBLE.

WITH FIVE, NO DREAM IS BEYOND OUR REACH.

TODAY WILL BE MINE. TOMORROW, YOURS.

WE CAN DO IT.

WHAT SAY YOU, CONQUEROR?

WELCOME BACK TO THE 20TH CENTURY, KANG.

I GREET YOU, PROUD DOOM...

...WHOM, EVER THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES, I SHALL...

...CUT OUT OF THIS BARGAIN MOST HARSHLY...

IT IS CALLED MONSTER ISLAND!

IT'S THE HOME OF MANY A BIZARRE BEHEMOTH AND A PROTECTORATE OF THE MOLE MAN'S EMPIRE.

BUT THIS DESOLATE ISLE CAN NOW ALSO BOAST OF NEWER AND EVEN MORE INFAMOUS RESIDENTS.

ADAM WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH.

AS YOU CAN SEE, WARLOCK, THE CASTLE WILL PROVE MORE THAN ADEQUATE FOR YOUR GROUP'S NEEDS.

SETTING UP THE DIPLOMATIC FRONT OF YOUR PLAN WILL BE THE MOST DIFFICULT FACET TO IMPLEMENT.

HELLO! ANYONE HOME?

THEN IT IS AGREED: WE ARE NOW ALLIES!

ONLY UNDER THE TERMS WE DISCUSSED, MOLE MAN.*

TERMS I CAN EASILY LIVE WITH.

*FOR DETAILS ON THIS CHECK OUT WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #7!

THEN IT WOULD APPEAR THAT WE HAVE ONLY ONE LAST PROBLEM TO DEAL WITH.

AND WHAT MIGHT THAT BE?

WE HAVE AN INTRUDER...

THANOS?!

GREETINGS, WARLOCK.

OH-OH...

DRAX REMEMBERS THANOS--

HOLY CRUD!

DRAX'S JOB TO KILL PURPLE MAN!!

THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW.

OH?

WHAT IS IT YOU SEEK, TITAN?

YOUR AID.

TO BE CONTINUED!

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